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MUD TURTLE ATTACKED BY CRAB.

Canoeing in the muddy shallows of a creek at Mastic, Long Island, with Mr. Alan S. Nicolay on August 29, 1914, a large Blue Crab was observed firmly holding a Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon pennsylvanicum*) of perhaps more than half its size, one of whose feet waved helplessly above the surface. The crab probably had it by the neck, and the encounter might well have ended disastrously if not interrupted.

The waters at Mastic are rather unusual. The creek where the encounter took place, though directly tributary to brackish Moriches Bay, is, judging from the water plants, almost, if not quite, fresh. The writer has taken the Painted Turtle in it. The Snapping Turtle is common in the Mastic Region; Spotted Turtles are abundant in narrow, more or less fresh creeks in the brackish meadow; the Mud Turtle is frequently seen and the writer has found it on the beach side of the bay. A fisherman at Brookhaven, whose numerous stock of Diamond-backed Terrapin were examined says that this part of the bay is excellent for that species. The Box Turtle is common in the woods, but the writer has never found the Wood or Musk Turtles in the vicinity.

Mr. Waldron De W. Miller considers the latter species definitely less coast-wise than the Mud Turtle in the vicinity of New York. He finds it at Plainfield, N. J., where he has not taken the Mud Turtle, which he has, however, found in the Cheesequake Marshes, lower Raritan River Marshes, and at Sandy Hook, N. J.

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AMBYSTOMA TIGRINUM IN SOUTH DAKOTA.

Last summer, during the month of August, the writer lived among a number of Wahpeton Sioux, residing about Drywood Lake about ten or twelve miles from Sisseton, S. Dakota. The abundance of the tiger salamander *Ambystoma tigrinum* in Drywood Lake, and indeed in all the ponds thereabouts, was

notable. Both forms occurred, the axolotl phase dwelling in the water, and the salamander phase on the land.

After a rain, or in the morning while the ground was still heavily bedewed, numbers of these salamanders could be found crawling over the prairie, especially along the roads. I have seen as many as seven in the course of a couple of miles, and their mangled bodies were often seen where they had been run over, sometimes as much as half a mile from the lakes.

These salamanders delighted in burrowing in the mounds of loose black earth cast up by the pocket gophers on the prairie. They often covered themselves, leaving only the tip of the nose exposed. If irritated, they would slowly lash their tails, which would exude abundant drops of a thick white milky fluid. The Indians believed this to be poisonous. Great variation in the coloring of these salamanders was observed, some being almost uniformly dull olive, others plainly and strikingly barred with yellow. No specimens under five or six inches in length were observed, and most may have been eight or even nine inches long.

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